

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 001175

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [MOPS](#) [RW](#) [BY](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: RWANDAN GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ATTACK ON BURUNDI
REFUGEE CAMP

Classified By: ERIC WONG, POLITICAL OFFICER. REASON 1.4 (D)

1. (U) SUMMARY. The Rwandan foreign ministry issued a communique dated August 14 condemning the recent attack on Burundi's Gatumba refugee camp that killed up to 170 Banyamulenge refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The GOR communique attributes the attack to "a combined force" of ex-FAR/Interahamwe, Mai-Mai and FNL. The GOR calls for the forcible disarmament of ex-FAR/Interahamwe, noting that failure to do this "... may force Rwanda to take measures which may not necessarily be in the line of the thinking of (the) International Community. Rwanda is not prepared to tolerate the status quo."

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT.

Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Communique

The Government of Rwanda is shocked and horrified to learn of a massacre of more than 150 Banyamulenge in the refugee camp of Katumba, in Burundi, which occurred on the night of the 13th to 14th August 2004. Information available to Government indicates that this despicable act was perpetrated by a combined force of Ex-FAR Interahamwe (calling themselves FDLR/FOCA) and Mayi Mayi from the Democratic Republic of Congo, in cooperation with elements of the FNL/PALIPEHUTU.

Government wishes to remind the International Community that during, and following the May/June 2004 events in Bukavu, Banyamulenge refugees in Rwanda and Burundi have consistently affirmed that they fled targeted and systematic massacres against them by Armed Forces of the DRC under the command of Mbuza MABE acting in concert with the Ex-FAR/INTERAHAMWE. Surprisingly, MONUC, which is the voice of the International Community in the region claims they have seen no evidence of targeted massacres of this community. The latest massacre lays this lie to rest.

Government strongly condemns this recent targeted massacre of Banyamulenge which is a result of the genocidal ideology that currently holds sway in our region, nurtured and propagated by the Ex-FAR/INTERAHAMWE forces and those in the region and the wider International Community who give them assistance and succour.

Government is gravely disturbed that for the last ten years the International community has consistently refused to disarm the Ex-FAR/Interahamwe, a force that committed genocide in Rwanda. Despite numerous UNSC resolutions calling on all UN Member States to refrain from giving military, political and diplomatic support to these genocidal forces, some members of the international community have consistently continued to extend support to them.

Although MONUC regularly meets the leadership of the Ex-FAR/Interahamwe and is fully aware of the location, strength and movements of the EX-FAR/Interahamwe towards and across the border between the DRC and Rwanda and Burundi, it has never intervened to foil attacks on Rwanda or Burundi or even warned these two countries of impending attacks, with devastating consequences for innocent civilians in these two countries. MONUC and the DRC 10th Military Region have recently watched and/or facilitated the return into their mother units, of genocidal troops fleeing military operations carried out by Burundi Armed Forces.

We call upon the International Community to stop watching unmoved, this incipient ethnic cleansing now taking root in the region and especially in the Eastern DRC. We also reiterate our demand for the forcible disarmament, demobilization and repatriation of the Ex-FAR/INTERAHAMWE now deployed along Rwanda's border and in many cases co-located with DRC armed forces, failure of which may force Rwanda to take measures which may not necessarily be in the line of the thinking of International Community. Rwanda is not prepared to tolerate the status quo.

Done in Kigali, 14th of August 2004.

END TEXT.

13. (C) COMMENT: The attack on Banyamulenge refugees in Burundi comes days after DRC Vice President Ruberwa's visit to Banyamulenge refugees in Rwanda, and highlights the GOR's concerns that Banyamulenge have been the target of politically motivated ethnic killings. Rwanda's Presidential Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Amb. Richard Sezibera, accompanied by Rwanda's Minister of Interior, were en route to Burundi to attend funeral ceremonies for those killed at Gatumba. Rwandan Defense Forces deployed to Darfur, Sudan, on August 14-15. Senior GOR officials have stated that if the RDF can intervene in Darfur to prevent ethnic killings, then perhaps they should do so in DRC as well. The GOR's communique suggests military intervention in DRC is a possibility Kigali has not ruled out. END COMMENT.

14. (U) Bujumbura: minimize considered.
PATRICK